



USAF Band of the West

Lackland Air Force Base

The United States Air Force Band of the West is a musical organization with an outstanding record of achievement. The airmen assigned to the band are highly trained professional musicians who have dedicated themselves to serving their country through music.

The USAF Band of the West has a long lineage in the United States Air Force. The band was created on October 1st, 1941 at Moffett Field, California and moved to Enid Army Airfield soon after. With the birth of the United States Air Force in 1947, the band moved to what eventually became Lackland Air Force Base. The band was inactivated in 1955 but reactivated in 1959. The title “Band of the West” was used for years until May 1st, 1997 when it was granted official status.

The USAF Band of the West travels more than 125,000 miles annually and provides over 500 performances to military and civilian audiences throughout Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana. The band has been an integral part of the music scene in the Southwest for many years. The organization is made up of ensembles such as the Concert Band, Ceremonial/Marching Band, Dimensions in Blue jazz ensemble, and two popular music groups, Warhawk and Top Flight. Satellite groups within the unit include Gateway Brass quintet, Southwest Winds woodwind quintet, protocol combos, and Lone Star Ramblers dixieland jazz band. This diversity enables the USAF Band of the West to perform practically any style of music from classical and country to marches and mambos.

In 1999, the USAF Band of the West was awarded its fourth *Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands*. That same year the band received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the sixth time due to its exemplary contributions to Air Force recruiting and community relations programs.

The United States Air Force Band of the West has performed for presidents, heads of state, and dignitaries from around the world earning an outstanding reputation among America’s military bands.